

Page Devoted to the Cause of Popular Education

NEW PHASE OF SCHOOL PROBLEM

Dr. Mitchell Presents in Convincing Way the "Task of the Neighborhood."

FOCI OF THE RURAL LIFE

School May Be Larger Unit in Each Community Than Either Church or Courthouse.

To Dr. S. C. Mitchell, professor of history at Richmond College, fell the honor of presiding over the conference for education in the South in 1906. Dr. Mitchell, N. C. Mr. Robert C. Ogden was absent on account of sickness, and Dr. Mitchell's selection was unanimous and well merited.

Dr. Mitchell has always been given a prominent place on the speakers' program, and at the recent conference his principal address was on "The Task of the Neighborhood," a subject of great and inspiring educational value, and one which has been handled with uncommon ability and attractiveness. He said in part:

"We are accustomed to speak of the Southern problem; but would it not be well to consider this large and general term back into its constituent elements, with a view to making our purpose in education more definite and our efforts more concrete? The Southern problem is not a strategic point, not a bloody angle, not a single fortress, which can be carried by one brilliant assault, as we sometimes seem to fancy; but it is rather a series of innumerable ganglia, each one the center of a social, economic, social and intellectual. These ganglia are the myriads of neighborhoods which dot the wide expanse of the South.

"This educational movement has displayed rare generosity in marshaling masses of people, in enlisting the leaders of thought in the several States, and in rendering more effective all educational agencies. It has brought to light the facts as to Southern schools; it has lifted education here into national prominence; it has brought encouragement to every isolated man or woman who, in his or her sphere, was sincerely making for progress; it has reinforced Southern opinion and promoted conciliation among all sections of our common country. The gains are great and they will abide. But has not the time come for another turn to be taken in our advance?"

Foci of Rural Life.

"To-day the rural community in the South has two foci—the courthouse and the church. It is not possible that these two centers of influence, which are to some extent decisive, can be embraced to advantage in a larger unit—the school? Society is bigger than both the church and the court, and the school stands for that social organism which includes the state, church, court and commerce, home and factory.

"In seeking to make the school the center of community life, the point of radiation of progressive ideas and influences, we are only reverting to the oft-repeated wishes of Thomas Jefferson. He wished to divide the country into wards, after the order of the New England township. The local league may thus become to the South what the township is to New England and what the people's assembly is to the center of democracy in Switzerland, an organ of democracy in its most vital form.

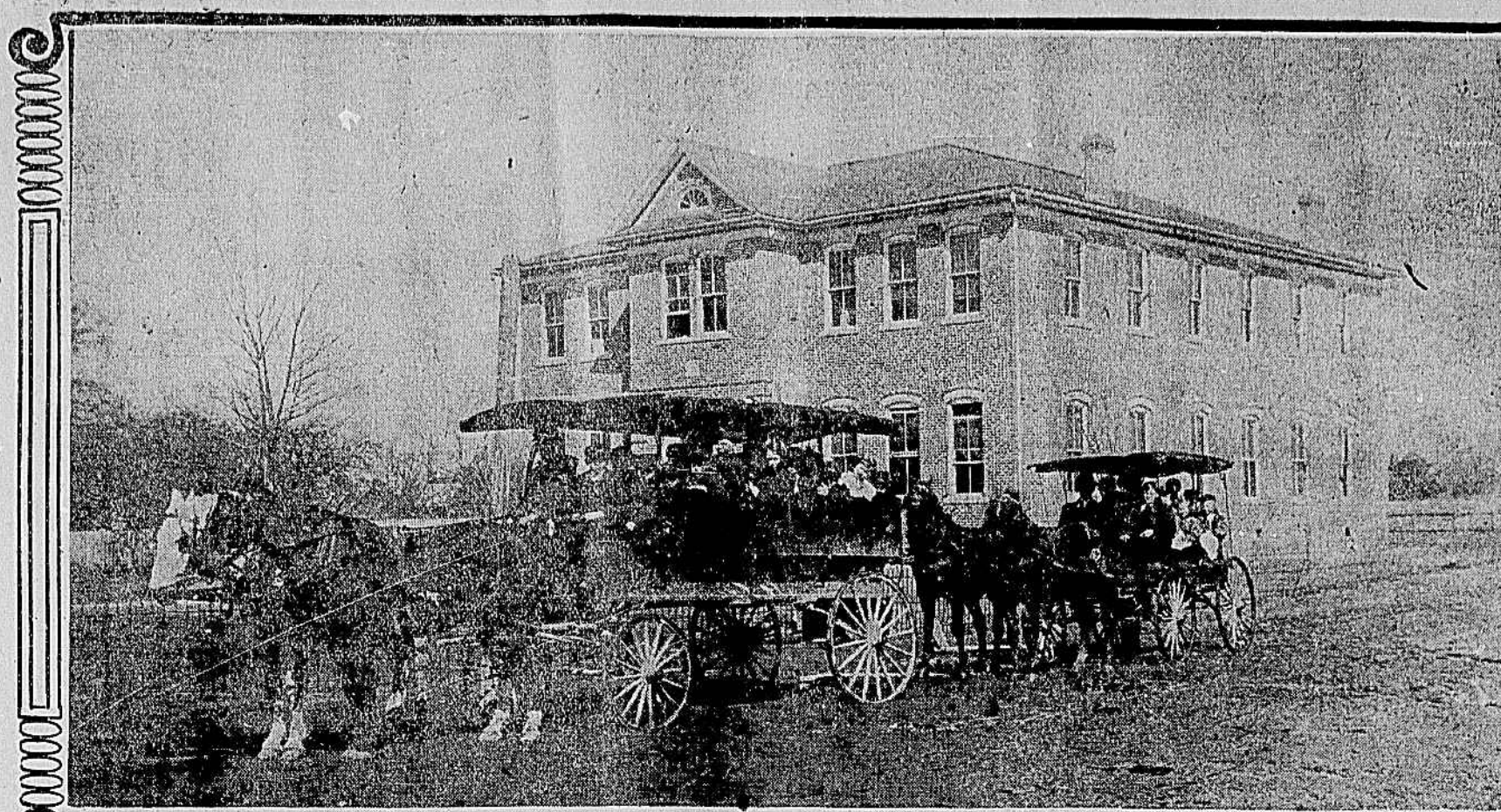
"Many are the advantages of community effort:

(1) Local school improvement leagues will become recruiting stations. They will discover men and women of initiative and directive power, who might otherwise escape notice. They will give energy to the mass of our people, as well as to the advantaged man. All the people, if united in a noble purpose, can accomplish far more than the most energetic individual, even Napoleon himself. The spirit of this whole educational movement condenses itself into the one word co-operation.

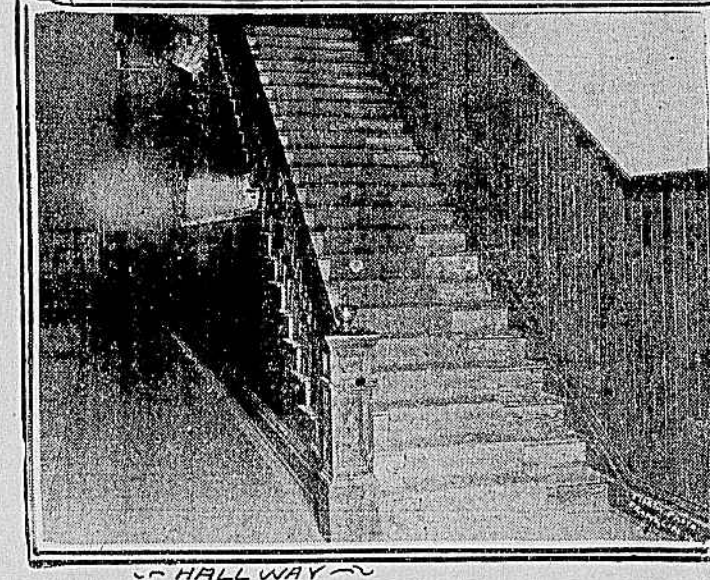
(2) The local school league knows better the needs of the neighborhood than leaders at a distance. Understanding the temper of their people, citizens locally can best supply them. The local school league in Virginia are far different from those in Mississippi. If States differ, communities vary. Any workable program of education in the South must be so made as to fit the local conditions.

(3) Through the local school league you enlist the constructive interest of all the citizens. The distinctive thing about the present educational revival in the South is that it is by the citizens, as distinguished from the teachers and officials. This appears upon every hand, especially in such a gathering as this. It was the keynote in Virginia's May campaign of 1905, which did much to stir the depths of society in behalf of the school. What we aim at primarily is not to construct a new curriculum for the colleges, not to devise a complete course of studies in the school, but to arouse all the people of the South to realize that the school is the prime factor in progress; that popular government without universal training of the children; that education is a force; that economic and social efficiency depend upon the South's prestige in national councils can be reached only by universal education, not by sectional prejudices, but only by an enlightened and aggressive public opinion which embraces within its view all the interests of our common country. Our first aim, therefore, is the citizen rather than the pupil. It is necessary to reach the community, and that is best done through the school. In seeking to energize democracy in the South, the school is merely a means to an end. To stir the interest of citizens to enlist their resources, to give efficiency to the community, is the object of the local school league.

(4) The local school league gives vitality to the community's will. What the brain is to the body, that organization is to the diffuse social energy. Suggestive is the title of a recent book, "Why the Mind Has a Body." Too long in the South the neighborhood has lacked a uniting force, a social nucleus, which the school is admirably adapted to supply. It is with pleasure that I emphasize the advantage of community effort in the State



COURTLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND THE "KID CARS"



HALL WAY

FINE MEETING OF GATE CITY TEACHERS

The educational rally of teachers and citizens, held at Gate City March 29th, is indicative of the interest of Scott county in better schools. Many of the most prominent citizens and almost every teacher in the county were present. No such enthusiastic or representative gathering has ever before been held in the county. A county teachers' association was formed. The personnel of the teaching force of this county is excellent. Earnestness and aggressiveness characterized the proceedings, and the meeting of the Scott county teachers and citizens reflects the influence of Superintendent W. D. Smith, to whose indefatigable and intelligent efforts the progress of education is due in a large measure.

Salaries in this county have been improving for some time, yet the teachers are assured that they will, at the opening of the next session, receive a substantial increase in their pay. This county is developing a body of professional teachers, who will continue to teach, despite the fact that their compensation is much smaller than they could receive

of North Carolina, which, unlike many other States in the South, is to-day rapidly developing a body of professional teachers, who will continue to teach, despite the fact that their compensation is much smaller than they could receive

(5) The whole problem of the South is found in miniature in the neighborhood, as the sky glories itself in a drop of dew. The reclamation of real democracy, the necessity for unity of action upon the part of all the people in behalf of social progress, the frank discussion of every public issue—all these aspects of the South's problem are to be met in the local school league, which, through the school, tries to give efficiency to the community's will in the interest of progress. Thus the scope of the school is far wider than that of the ordinary means by which education is imparted. The school is to be the agency through which the economic, social, intellectual, political, racial and religious conditions in the neighborhood are to be transformed according to the spirit of order, progress and national efficiency.

"Democracy implies more than liberty, more than equality. It involves a sense of brotherhood. Kingship is competitive. Democracy is co-operative. It is the mutualization of government. The initial impulse of democracy is I am my brother's keeper. Democracy is paternalism. Democracy is fraternalism. It has faith in the average man. 'God has shown me that I should call no man common.' In democracy there are three elements: right, reason and sympathy, but the greatest of these is sympathy. It is, therefore, in keeping with the ethics of democracy that the South is advancing in education along three different lines. First, in the education of the neglected white child. The 'poor whites' are an unexploited asset of the South. Under the old order these people had no place. They were ground between the upper and nether millstone, between aristocracy and slavery. Yet these hardy people lacked neither capacity nor courage. They have lacked aspiration and opportunity. The public school is the door to a new day for them, skirting in the recesses of the mountain, or swept together in the tenement houses

in other fields of work in this rapidly developing section. The great demand for capable young men and women in the industrial development of this section renders further increase of teachers' salaries a necessity.

Friday night Professor Hart delivered a strong address before the teachers and citizens. The auditorium of Shenandoah College was crowded with enthusiastic friends of education from all parts of the county. In the Rye Cove the following day Professor Hart addressed an audience composed of the leading citizens of that section in the interest of the high school. It is the trend to establish a modern school building, probably of stone, will be built at once. At other points new houses are being built. A very complete high school building has just been finished at Alley. Our schools are far from the ideal, but we are encouraged to know that they are improving.

The Co-operative Education Association, through its energetic county president, M. W. Quillen, is planning an aggressive campaign, in co-operation with the County Teachers' Association.

about the newly-built cotton mill. In this is the potency of this numerous class of economic factors involved in slavery, and, in a word, the interpretation of the facts at one's front door, would have been of priceless value to our fathers in the crisis of national destiny. It is here that the school, ready to give such help, has acted as a potent to soothe, to divert attention from conditions too stern for men willingly to gaze upon them. The social sciences could have been as a searchlight turned upon the overhanging path before them. In the light of this experience, it is plain that, while our colleges will still cherish the classics, they should become more and more scientific and sociological. It is gratifying to note that our institutions are rapidly adjusting their courses to these pressing needs of our people.

Thirdly, the South is advancing in the training of negroes. Slavery was a school. In it the negro learned the lessons of obedience, industry, and the habit of civilization. It is gratifying to note that our institutions are rapidly adjusting their courses to these pressing needs of our people. The social sciences could have been as a searchlight turned upon the overhanging path before them. In the light of this experience, it is plain that, while our colleges will still cherish the classics, they should become more and more scientific and sociological. It is gratifying to note that our institutions are rapidly adjusting their courses to these pressing needs of our people.

It is no longer necessary for an Italian to come to New York to make money. The home country is enjoying a boom. The state railways show an increase of \$7,500,000 in business for the first year of their operation, although the new rate card was not put in use until November. All the Italian shipyards are busy. The iron mines of Elba, which drew Napoleon's interest when he was the keen king of the isle, are to be allowed to put out 50,000 tons of pig iron. They hold a government lease. The government surplus last year was over \$12,500,000. In the first eleven months money increased by some 15 per cent. Cotton mills are supplying prints and piece goods to Turkey, to South America, where Italian emigrants buy them, and to Africa—New York Times.

ern people is fixed. In their achievements they have the sympathy of all patriotic men, and they are nerved to their task both by their knowledge of the substantial benefits which will accrue to their children's children, and by their sense of responsibility in giving to the forces resident in our democracy their highest efficiency in economic development, social order, racial adjustment and national power.

Rally in Lunenburg

The meeting of the County Teachers' Association, held at Lunenburg Court-house, April 3d, 4th and 5th, was the most successful educational rally our county ever witnessed.

The meetings were presided over by Mr. T. W. Wilkerson, our youthful county superintendent of public schools, of whom we feel very proud, because he was bred and born in "the Old Free State" of Lunenburg, and at the age of twenty-one years holds the important and responsible position mentioned above.

We poor teachers were generously defended by our sympathizing Commonwealth's attorney, who conscientiously declared that not one of the Lunenburg teachers would be left by the wayside in the great, progressive educational movement that already has begun throughout our State.

He emphatically declared that incompetency had never been, nor could be, brought against us. He mentioned afterward that it was the luckiest stroke of his political diplomacy he had since made, in appointing a candidate for office, as the teachers represented themselves ably in numbers.

Many thanks, Mr. Neblett; we are on your side. Although not entitled to vote, we can talk some. We feel we were not worthy of your flattering eulogium; yet teachers have not reached human perfection sufficiently that enables them to sit and listen comfortably to Professor Saunders, who is evidently going to lay "righteousness to the line and justice to the plumb." Our teachers are going to be forced up to the mark or drop out.

His talks were improving, and his judgment could not be questioned; yet it did not make the "caps" fit less uncomfortably nor decrease their number that guilty consciences lay upon us.

We had the pleasure and privilege of listening to able discourses from J. D. Eggleston, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Prof. Joseph H. Saunders, State School Examiner; Superintendent Davis, of Prince Edward county; Dr. E. E. Jones, State Female Normal School; Dr. Bruce Payne, University of Virginia, and last, but not least, Dr. Prayser, of Richmond.

From these able educators we gathered many new and useful thoughts, and feel strengthened in our efforts in behalf of our dear little ones intrusted to our care.

The district associations were organized, as well as County Teachers' Association.

Many reforms were advised, which an organized body, intent to adopt and promulgate to the extent of our influence.

We return thanks to these enthusiastic laborers for the advancement of education, who were with us, and pray that the good work begun may continue. W. M. F. Pleasant Grove, Va.

Honor Roll.

The following is the report of white Public School No. 3, Liles District, Amelia county, Va., Miss Rita Hawkes, teacher, for the month ending April 5, 1907: Number pupils on roll, 16; average daily attendance, 14.75.

Those present below are pupils who have not been absent more than two days or tardy more than three times: Miss Hawkes, George Hawkes, Sallie Hawkes, Clifford Moyer, Frances Moyer, Wallace Murphy, Fred Murphy, John Murphy, Kate Murphy, Waverley Crump, Va.

Boom Days in Italy.

It is no longer necessary for an Italian to come to New York to make money. The home country is enjoying a boom. The state railways show an increase of \$7,500,000 in business for the first year of their operation, although the new rate card was not put in use until November. All the Italian shipyards are busy. The iron mines of Elba, which drew Napoleon's interest when he was the keen king of the isle, are to be allowed to put out 50,000 tons of pig iron. They hold a government lease. The government surplus last year was over \$12,500,000. In the first eleven months money increased by some 15 per cent. Cotton mills are supplying prints and piece goods to Turkey, to South America, where Italian emigrants buy them, and to Africa—New York Times.



THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING

RAPID STRIDES OF COURTLAND SCHOOL

People of That Community Afford Convincing Example of the Determined Efforts of Virginia For a More Modern Public School System.

One of the most convincing examples of the sturdy and determined efforts of Virginia for a better public school system is to be found in the town of Courtland, Southampton county.

In November, 1905, at a meeting of a teachers' institute, the rebuilding of the county that gave birth to John V. Mason, William Mahone, James H. Rochelle and George H. Thomas, came to a full realization that the cry of "poverty" was unwarranted; that their children, made of the stern stuff of soldiers and statesmen, were their most precious possessions, and were worthy of a twentieth century education.

Consequently, it was decided that a school, which should be a school, must be built. A committee, consisting of Mr. John N. Sebrrell, Senator William Shands, and Mr. J. T. Knight, was immediately appointed to visit representative schools in the State and submit suitable plans for a building. With the enthusiastic aid of Mr. Willis A. Jenkins, district examiner, the committee vigorously set to work, and a model which has since been highly admired was chosen. Local taxation was then increased; the contract awarded; bonds for payment issued; and on the 17th of September, 1906—less than a year—the new building was turned over to the school officials—the gift of Courtland to the educational system of Southampton county.

Rapid Strides.

The strides which Courtland has made in this direction is almost without a parallel in the history of the State. An adequate conception of what has been accomplished can be had by comparing the old building with the new one. The small two-room frame structure used for school purposes during the session 1905-6 having only two teachers, a total enrollment of about forty pupils and very poor equipment, has been supplanted by a school which has been spoken of by one high in educational circles, as "the best county school he has seen in the State."

At a cost approximating \$15,000, the present structure has been raised and equipped. Built of brick, with stone trimmings, and happily located, it stands a monument to Virginia enterprise, and an edifice that would creditably grace the streets of many of our larger cities.

The grounds embrace three acres, which afford ample room for outdoor sports. The front yard is attractively fenced with iron, and preparations for tastefully adorning it with shrubs and flowers are in progress.

The interior of the building consists of ten well arranged rooms, including a large auditorium, in which morning chapel services and school entertainments are held. Each room is furnished with individual desks, a complete assortment of globes, maps, and other school accessories.

As further evidence of how thoroughly equipped this school is, it is necessary to add that the board of trustees has recently purchased through Mr. Carroll Downes, agent for the Columbia Supply Company, Indianapolis, Ind., the complete Crowl Physical Laboratory recommended by the State Board of Examiners. The price of this outfit is \$350.

Not an Easy Task.

The task of organizing a uni-

graded school, and of rounding the pupils into symmetry is not an easy one, especially when attended by the complications which the merging of schools presents. However, notwithstanding these difficulties, a working curriculum based on those of the best city schools has been introduced, and a high school course installed. For the maintenance of the latter, a State appropriation has been awarded.

In addition to the usual branches, both vocal and instrumental music are taught. The introduction of piano music is rather a novel attempt for a public school, but in this case it is meeting with unqualified success. For piano instruction, a very reasonable fee is charged, which, although it has limited the number of pupils taking the course to twenty-seven, nevertheless makes the department practically self-sustaining.

Instead of two teachers, as was the case last session, five are now employed, having as the principal, Mr. Algar Woolfolk, formerly of Danville.

One of the features of the school, around which a deal of interest clusters, is the library. Through the generous aid of the circulating department of the State Library and the District School board, about three hundred volumes have already been secured, and prospects for a large town library seem favorable.

Perhaps, though, the adoption of the "consolidation plan" is a matter that will claim more general attention. This measure was one of the first to be entertained by the local officials. The credit for its inception in Southampton, its happy culmination, the present success of the school, belongs most largely to Mr. John N. Sebrrell, Sr., a man of progressive ideas, and one of the leading spirits in the public school work of the county.

In this undertaking Mr. Sebrrell received the unstinted support of his associates on the board of trustees and the able division superintendent of schools, Mr. W. W. White. Fully convinced of the feasibility of the plan, and having behind them the sanction of State officers, these gentlemen have persevered, and, in the face of existence several very mediocre schools, in place of them, has been substituted a high, convenient, very expensively dubbed "The Kid-Car."

Wisdom Clearly Shown.

The wisdom of the action is clearly shown by the results. In the first place the children of these banished schools at present enjoy a session of nine months instead of five; and whereas, in the olden times, they tramped miles through lonely places, in all kinds of weather, to a miserable shanty of a school, now, with a man of character as a driver and protector, they are brought dry-shod, to a warm, well-kept school of much higher efficiency. Moreover, the patrons are universally satisfied. The plan is fast finding favor in other communities, and numerous requests for wagons have been received, for it is being demonstrated that consolidation is less expensive to the tax-payer, and more remunerative to his child.

Among other results that might be mentioned, may be noted the fact that by means of the wagon system, and through the attraction the school has for outsiders, the enrollment has tripled that of last year. This increase of numbers makes possible a very health-

ful school spirit; and the pride which the pupils have in their organizations, school caps, pins, and environments augurs well for future prosperity. The building, which stands as the one in Courtland, is a portent of great promise, for it is indicative of the motto of Virginia people. It shows their intention to keep step in the onward march of progress. It reveals their determination to restore Virginia to her former prestige, and to make her young men masters of great undertakings and cultured Virginia gentlemen.

GREAT PROGRESS BEING MADE AT EXPOSITION

(Continued from Third Page.)

bookish through tongue; third offense, death.
"Deriding God's Word—Death.
"Disrespect to a minister—Three whippings and apology in public three Sabbath days.
"Failure to attend Sunday service—First offense, loss of allowance for one week; second offense, same plus whipping; third offense, death.
"Murder—Death.
"Adultery, rape, sodomy—Death.
"Perjury—Death.
"Robbery of church or store property—Death.
"Reasonable speech against the King—Death.
"Slander against Virginia—Death.
"Slander against the London Company, against any of its officers, committees, representatives, decrees or orders—First offense, whipping and public apology; second offense, flogging; imprisonment in the galleys for three years; fourth offense, death.
"Unauthorized trading with the Indians—Death.
"Robbing an Indian in a trade—Death.
"Rendering false accounts to any officer in the colony—Death.
"Selling at higher prices than those fixed by the government—Death.
"Killing any domestic animal or fowl without consent of the governor—Death.
"Failure to keep regular hours of work for the colony—First offense, flogging and heels tied together all night; second offense, whipping; third offense, galleys for one year.
"Running away to the Indians—Death.
"Robbing gardens of vegetables or grain—Death.
"Refusal to go to the minister for religious instruction—First offense, whipping; second offense, whipping twice and apology; third offense, whipping daily until public apology be made with contrition.
"Defrauding any baker, cook or fisherman employed by the colony—First offense, loss of ears; second offense, galleys one year; third offense, galleys three years.
This is the code that made the colony permanent, prevented its decay and destruction, and laid the foundations for a great nation, afterwards made possible by the unbroken strength of the several colonies and minor settlements.

Electric Display.

While the carpenters and engineers have been busy on the buildings and grounds, the electricians have been in no less idle, and the result of their work will be one of the most complete displays ever installed.

The streets, grounds and buildings will be illuminated with thousands of incandescent globes, while the electric lights will be placed on the government pier alone, lighting up the harbor with their blinding brilliance.

In the auditorium building, where a number of conventions will be held during the summer and early fall, there will be two thousand incandescent power lights, which will be placed on the roof thousands of smaller lights, will be placed at intervals of six inches.

Fifteen 33-inch search-lights will be located on the main court, and on the summit of a high tower in the center of the court will be placed a powerful search-light, which will be the largest ever made.

On the Warpath, of course, the lights will be spectacular in the extreme, every color, design and method of arrangement being called upon to make the locality a maze of light. A number of search-lights will be placed on the Warpath, an 80-foot tower will be built, on top of which a search-light, fitted with a projector thirty inches in diameter will flash its blinding rays through revolving color screens.

More than one thousand twinkling, or "star" lights, as they are called, will be hung in the vines and shrubbery on both sides of Filtration Walk, where they will blink at romantic intervals from 7 o'clock in the evening until the grounds are closed at 11.

By actual count it has been ascertained that each twinkling light will be open and shut its eye 1,500 times during the four hours they will be in operation.

A Birthday at Princeton.

It is a little more than ten years since Mr. Cleveland left the White House. Radicalsism has bloomed luxuriantly since then, and the Constitutional Democracy to which he belonged seems pale and old-fashioned now. The forces of discontent, of turbulence, of restless innovation and conscious or unconscious charlatanism, which he opposed in his own party, have swallowed both parties. The Republican party, which he saved from the Democrats of the Cleveland school to defend conservatism and beat Bryanism in 1896, is now the vanguard of radicalism. In this swift theatrical shifting of policies and principles, in this continuous performance of a melodrama, the old-fashioned character like Mr. Cleveland looks a little remote and unfamiliar.

As President Mr. Cleveland enforced the laws and did not trouble to organize violence or crutch before public clamor. The man who taught the Cleveland school at Washington, the man who wrote the Venezuelan message, is sure of an honorable place in history and of the final approval of his countrymen.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cleveland enjoys the general respect of all classes, and if he is severely to-day the public congratulation will be to-day the public plenty of years of health, good fortune and good fishing—New York Sun.

Raffia-Work for Women.

Raffia is very light and very inexpensive; therefore it is an excellent medium for a beginner to work with. A pound of it will last a long time and costs from fifteen to twenty cents, but if a bunch is bought, the price will range from twelve to sixteen cents. The finest raffia is used for weaving hats and pillow-covers, besides the cloth the natives use for clothing, but which the American girl puts to other uses.

The principle of weaving raffia is the same that is taught kindergarten children with their paper mats and, over and over, is the same in the more complicated work. It may be purchased for a small sum, on which the warp of thread or raffia may be stretched. The cloth the natives use for clothing becomes a simple matter. From "The Girl's Busy Circle," in the March Circle.